

ABSTRACT

[0140] An optical head device includes a first light source which emits a first laser beam, a second light source which emits a second laser beam, a common optical path for guiding the first laser beam or the second laser beam to an optical recording medium, and a diffraction element disposed on the common optical path. The diffraction element includes a partially formed first diffraction grating such that the first laser beam is diffracted and the second laser beam is transmitted without being diffracted and a partially formed second diffraction grating such that the second laser beam is diffracted and the first laser beam is transmitted. The partially formed first diffraction grating and the partially formed second diffraction grating are formed in a side by side relation.